(b) if so, whether Government would take any steps to provide nutritious food to children under Mid-day Meal Scheme; and

(c) if so, by when, and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALIASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (c) Mid Day Meal is provided to children studying in Government (including Local Body), Government Aided Schools and EGS/AIE Centres. The Directorate of Education, NCT of Delhi has reported that no study is available with them in respect of children enrolled in private schools suffering from anaemia in Delhi. Municipal Corporation of Delhi has reported that some children in MCD schools were found to be suffering from anaemia, and directions have been given to the NGOs/ Service Providers to use double fortified salt. MCD Health Department has also started a pilot project in which children are given amino folic acid tablets once a week to supplement the Mid-day-Meal.

Ability Learning Test of NCERT

t981. SHRI MOT1LALVORA:
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI.
MS.SUSHILA TIRIYA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has conducted Ability Learning Test in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof:

(c) whether it is also a fact that on an average 45 per cent school children upto class five can not perform even simple additions and subtractions;

(d) whether about 31 per cent school children upto class five do not have simple word knowledge even; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (e) The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) conducted a learning achievement survey at Class-V in 33 States and Union Territories, covering 6828 schools and 84332 students. According to this survey, about 27% children of Class-V were not able to do simple addition and subtraction and 6% children did not have simple word knowledge.

Under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, several activities have been undertaken to improve the quality of elementary education. This includes recruitment of 8.32 lakh additional teachers to improve the pupil teacher ratio; in-service training of teachers every year; free distribution of text books for primary and upper primary classes to about 6.5 crore Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and girl students; academic support to primary and upper primary schools through 6395 Block Resource Centres and 68352 Cluster Resource Centres and regular evaluation of students.

tOriginal notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Pass percentage of students

982. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that, according to a Government report on elementary education released on 22nd January, 2008, only 43 per cent of students in Government schools pass with more than 60 per cent marks, with girls doing slightly better than boys;

(b) whether, at upper primary level, only 39 per cent students pass with a first class; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons for the flaws in the quality of education that the learning abilities of students do not improve much while going for elementary education?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (c) National University of Educational Planning and Administration (NUEPA) collects elementary school statistics annually through the District Information System for Education (DISE) from all districts in the country.

According to DISE data 2006-07,45.04% students passed with 60% and above marks, at the exit classes of the primary stage. Girls have performed slightly better than boys, and the percentage of girls and boys passing with 60% and above marks is 45.12% and 44.96% respectively. At the upper primary level, 39.40% students passed with 60% and above marks.

Under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, serveral activities have been undertaken to improve the quality of elementary education. This includes recruitment of 8.32 lakh additional teachers to improve the pupil teacher ratio, in-service training of teachers for a period of 20 days every year, free distribution of text books for primary and upper primary classes to about 6.5 crore Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and girls students, academic support to primary and upper primary schools through 6395 Block Resource Centres and 6835 cluster Resource Centres and regular evaluation of students.

Unfilled seats for SCs and STs

983. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many seats allotted to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in professional colleges remained unfilled by students of these categories;

(b) if so, the number of such unfilled seats during the last three years, year-wise, State-wise, course-wise and category-wise;

(c) whether there is any decision to impose two restrictions on the grant Post Matric Scholarships to Scheduled Caste students joining professional courses;

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether steps would be taken to withdraw the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be placed on the table of the House.